

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6404

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: PONOMAREV WITH FRENCH AND GERMANS

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETINGS WITH GERMANS JULY 12 AND FRENCH JULY 14
PONOMAREV WAS SUNNY WITH FRENCH BUT MADE MEDIOCRE IMPRESSION
AND SEEMED RATHER POORLY INFORMED ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TOPICS.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT POL COUNSELORS' MEETING JULY 15, FRENCH REP REPORTED THAT
AT JULY 14 RECEPTION CPSU CC CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER AND
INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT CHIEF PONOMAREV, AS RANKING SOVIET GUEST,
HAD NOT KNOWN THAT FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES WAS DUE TO ARRIVE JULY
16, AND HAD IN GENERAL APPEARED TO BE POORLY INFORMED ON INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

3. ASKED WHETHER SELECTION, OF PONOMAREV, WHO DEALS MAINLY WITH
PARTY MATTERS, SEEMED DESIGNED TO IRRITATE PCF, FRENCH REP SAID HE
THOUGHT REASON WAS TECHNICAL: MAZUROV, WHO USUALLY COMES, WAS
PROBABLY AT JULY 14 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION. PONOMAREV'S
APPROACH, SOURCE SAID, WAS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT TO ALL FRENCHMEN.
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ASKED ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH PSF DELEGATION WEEK PREVIOUSLY,

PONOMAREV HAD REJOINED THAT HE ALSO MET WITH COUVE DE MURVILLE. FRENCH ALSO SAID MILITARY TURNOUT, HEADED BY KULIKOV, WAS HEAVIER THAN USUAL, DESPITE SOVIET DISPLEASURE OVER MERY ARTICLE.

4. IN SECOND-HAND REPORT ON FDP BUNDESTAG FRAKTION CHAIRMAN MISCHNICK'S MEETING WITH PONOMAREV JULY 12, FRG REP SAID LATTER HAS CONCENTRATED ON DISARMAMENT, COMPLAINING THAT WEST HAD NOT RESPONDED TO RECENT EASTERN DATA INITIATIVE IN MBFR AND PAINTING LURID PICTURE OF DANGERS TO HUMANITY ATTENDANT ON ARMS RACE. OTHERWISE, HE HAD TRUNDLED OUT LINE THAT SOVIERTS WANT TO PUSH AHEAD ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH FRG BUT THAT THERE ARE MANY COMPETITORS FOR SOVIET PARTNERSHIP, IN THIS CASE UK AND U.S. SOURCE SAID PONOMAREV HAD BEEN VERY STANDARD, AND ALSO VERY GENERAL.

5. COMMENT. FOR HEAD OF CC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT TO BE SO POORLY BRIEFED AS TO EVINCE IGNORANCE OF SAUVAGNARGUES VISIT IS UNUSUAL. HOWEVER, PONOMAREV MAY HAVE INTRO-COMMUNIST MATTERS TO TAKE HIS MIND OFF DIPLOMATIC TOPICS THESE DAYS.
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